

January 10, 1969

Mr. A. W. Hook
Manager of Environmental Control
Anaconda Aluminum Company
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Dear Mr. Hook:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I drafted to Clay Brinck and Don Willems in reference to the former's letter to you of January 7, 1969. The letter was never sent.

As you know from your phone conversation with Frank this morning, I was quite disturbed with Clay and Don at the moment I wrote the letter and handed it to Frank. After "sleeping on it", of course, I regained some "cool" but still feel we should ask them to justify their judgements with facts, particularly with regards to paragraph number four of the January 7 letter.

Clay doesn't state what metals results he wants, but I suppose we should determine levels of those metals on which we have methods and experience, viz., Al, Fe, Zn, Cu, and Pb. I certainly concur with your suggestion of sending a sample to the State Department of Health Chemistry Lab since, like you, I'm certain we have nothing to hide.

The only reference we have on a method for titanium determination is:

J. Stary. Solvent Extraction of Metal Chelates.
Pergamon Press.

We have asked the librarian here at the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology to see if she can locate this article but, to date, no success.

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I will be tied up with other work until around the first of February at which time I'll get set up to run coliform analyses. We do have all the equipment and media for the multiple tube technique but I want to make some trial runs in order to check the quality of the media constituents here at the lab. The method for the most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms determination is Page 594, Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 12th Edition, 1965. This is the accepted technique used by the State Department of Health. I am awaiting equipment for the membrane filter technique which I've always used in the field and which is also acceptable to Clay. We shall eventually have to differentiate between fecal and total coliforms since the Water Quality Standards for the State now call for this.

We are proceeding with the analyses of the samples collected during December and are finding that the levels are very low.

If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

John C. Spindler

JCS/lb

Enc.

cc: Mr. John W. Warren
files ✓